

CAMPUS DISRUPTION

The Fifty-fifth Annual Meeting of the American Association of University Professors recognizes that demonstrations and confrontations on campuses across the nation are frequently a manifestation of deep and sometimes profoundly moral discontent arising out of social injustice, public policy, and, in some cases, out of inefficiency, irresponsibility, and unresponsiveness within the institutions themselves. The Annual Meeting therefore calls on all members of the academic community to seek appropriate remedies, encourage necessary change, and discourage disruptive action.

American colleges and universities have long cherished a tradition of institutional autonomy. Disruptive actions of militant students and faculty can profoundly threaten that autonomy because those actions may provoke distrust and hostility and lead to countermeasures on the part of other students, government, and the public. The current crisis can thus only be compounded by vengeful reprisals, such as repressive legislation, punitive reduction of public or private financing of higher education that will penalize all students alike, or the withdrawal, on outside initiative, of grants from students alleged to have taken part in riots. Regular academic procedures, when utilized, can provide sufficient sanctions, and it is both unjust and destructive of institutional autonomy for additional punitive measures to be automatically imposed by outside authority as a consequence of institutional discipline.

Whenever possible, the maintenance of essential academic order should be the responsibility of the institutions themselves; breaches of that order by students should be judged by institutional tribunals, in accordance with the *Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students*, and breaches of academic order by faculty members should be dealt with in accordance with accepted professional standards. Academic due process, both procedural and substantive, must be guaranteed. Should the maintenance of academic order prove a task beyond the powers of regularly constituted institutional organs, and should it prove unhappily necessary to resort to the civil power, decisions as to its use should be made in the first instance by responsible administrative officers and faculty members in the service of academic criteria and not of political expediency. Thereafter every effort should be made to restore ordinary academic processes as quickly as possible.

**Adopted by the 55th Annual Meeting of the AAUP,
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THE AAUP AND CAMPUS DISRUPTION



ASSOCIATION'S CONCERN

With the establishment in 1961 of Committee S on Faculty Responsibility for the Academic Freedom of Students, the Association began a decade of intense interest in student problems. The Committee's tentative statement of policy, published in 1964, responded to the needs of the times by setting guidelines in such matters as freedom of the student press, invitations to campus speakers, and due process in disciplinary proceedings. Its 1968 offspring, the *Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students*, has set a pattern which many institutions are following.

Today's campus scene has inevitably given special prominence to that section of the joint statement which asserts the right of students to support causes "by orderly means which do not disrupt the regular and essential operation of the institution." Similar positions have been asserted by the Council and Annual Meeting, in resolutions dating back to October, 1967. Other resolutions have attempted to probe the causes of student discontent and to suggest means for improving both the campus and the social conditions which contribute to it.

The Council resolution of October 28, 1967, and basic Annual Meeting resolutions related to campus disruption, are here assembled for the convenience of Association members and others. Additional copies of this leaflet, and copies of the *Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students*, are available upon request. Other resolutions related to current campus problems may be found in the Summer, 1969, issue of the *AAUP Bulletin*.

Bertram H. Davis

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General Secretary

CAMPUS PROTEST AND THE FREE SEARCH FOR TRUTH

The American Association of University Professors and the academic community have long stressed the fundamental principle set forth in the 1940 *Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure* that "The common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition." Universities and colleges are dependent for their very life on the maintenance of this principle within their walls. The Council of the American Association of University Professors has again asserted this principle at its meeting of October 28, 1967.

The Council also approved the *Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students*, which affirms that "Free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the attainment of the goals" of academic institutions. The *Joint Statement* emphasizes that "the responsibility to secure and to respect general conditions conducive to the freedom to learn is shared by all members of the academic community" and develops other implications of these principles. The *Statement* notes that students should "be free to support causes by any orderly means which do not disrupt the regular and essential operation of the institution."

In view of some recent events, the Council deems it important to state its conviction that action by individuals or groups to prevent speakers invited to the campus from speaking, to disrupt the operations of the institutions in the course of demonstrations, or to obstruct and restrain other members of the academic community and campus visitors by physical force is destructive of the pursuit of learning and of a free society. All components of the academic community are under a strong obligation to protect its processes from these tactics.

Adopted by the Council, October 28, 1967

FREE SPEECH AND DISSENT

Colleges and universities are dependent for their very life upon maintenance of the principle set forth in the 1940 *Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure* that "the common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition." Fundamental to the operation of this principle is respect for the right of all to speak, to listen, to try to persuade by reasoned argument, and to form a judgment based on full and free exposition and discussion.

The right to speak encompasses diverse modes of expression. It does not encompass action to foreclose full, open, and orderly debate, nor does it countenance actions by individuals or groups to restrict the free speech, actions, or academic freedom of others or to keep teachers and students from their central tasks of teaching and learning. The preservation on the campus of the free search for truth, freedom to teach, and freedom to learn is a common and primary commitment of all members of the academic community—faculty, administration, students, and governing boards.

In view of some recent events, the Fifty-Fourth Annual Meeting deems it important to state its conviction that action by individuals or groups to prevent speakers invited to the campus from speaking, to disrupt the educational operations of the institutions in the course of demonstrations, or to obstruct and restrain other members of the academic community and campus visitors by physical force is destructive of the pursuit of learning and of a free society. All components of the academic community are under a strong obligation to protect its processes from these tactics.

To this end, the Fifty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the American Association of University Professors recommends to faculties, administrations, student bodies, and governing boards, that, in accordance with the *Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students* and the 1966 *Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities*, they establish effective joint mechanisms and processes for continuing examination of the conditions of campus life to ascertain that these conditions are at all times conducive to fulfillment of the academic community's purpose.

**Adopted by the 54th Annual Meeting of the AAUP,
April 27, 1968**